

~ Michelago Magpie 10 ~

30 November 2022 news peckings

from your Michelago Region Community Association



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BUSH DANCE 19 November – MRCA & MRFB sponsored



The Community Welcome Bush Dance & Dinner was a great success. The six-strong bush band, McQuoid's Offering (below with some fans), sang and played almost continuously from 6–9pm. The few breaks they had were needed also by the energetic dancers. The caller, Liz, is shown above



helping an aspiring vocalist.

Some comments: 'It was a great night and everyone really enjoyed it. The band commented on how much they enjoy playing in Michelago because of the great community atmosphere.' Fiona

'A fun night out!' Romney

'What I loved best about the whole occasion was seeing people smiling, laughing and being happy.' Kerry

More photos on pages 11–13.



Council proposes big changes to rural land use in the Michelago Region

Kerry Rooney

The Snowy Monaro Regional Council is preparing a new Local Environment Plan. If approved by our elected Councillors and the NSW Government, this Plan will become the new set of rules that controls all development in the Snowy Monaro.

Major changes are proposed for rural land in the Michelago region.

The Minimum Lot Size for rural land in the Michelago region is currently 80 hectares. Owners of lifestyle blocks often find 80 hectares a big challenge when it comes to managing weeds and feral animals.

The Council is proposing to increase Minimum Lot Sizes in the Canberra Corridor to 100 hectares for land that is zoned RU1. The Minimum Lot Size determines how much land you must own before you can get approval to build a house. The Canberra Corridor includes the Bredbo and Michelago regions north to the borders with the ACT and Queanbeyan-Palerang.

Some land currently zoned RU1 in the Canberra Corridor is proposed to be converted to RU2. The Minimum Lot Size for RU2 land will be 200 hectares. This proposal will affect some landholders on Tinderry Road and Burra Road.

If you don't know how this is going to affect you, go to <https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/draftsnowymonarolep> where you can read the documents. This website also includes a link to an online map that shows changes to land zoning.

The Council is running **information sessions** starting on Saturday 3 December:

- At Michelago Hall 10.30 am—12.30pm
- At Bredbo RFS Shed 2pm—4pm
- For other sessions please see <https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/draftsnowymonarolep>

You have until Monday 20th February 2023 to tell Council what you think about the proposed changes to land use regulations in the Snowy Monaro. You can read the documents and have your say at <https://yoursaysnowymonaro.com.au/draftsnowymonarolep>.

The MRCA will be lodging a submission. If you want MRCA to include your views in its submission, please email mrca@michelagoregion.org.au

The main documents on exhibition include:

- The draft Rural Land Use Strategy
- The draft Snowy Monaro Region Local Environment Plan
- The draft Settlements Plan which covers the towns and villages of the Snowy Monaro. Note that the Michelago Masterplan is already in place and determines development rules for Michelago.

Near Burra Road – Photo: Kerry Rooney





Michelago, your views are important!

Thank you to everyone who has stopped to have a chat, messaged or emailed. I love discussing your ideas and concerns.

I really encourage everyone to get involved as much as they can. There are a number of critical documents out on exhibition at the moment that are the guiding tools for council staff in assessments and decision making:

- DRAFT Settlements Strategy
- DRAFT Rural Land Use Strategy
- DRAFT Land and Environment Plan (LEP)

Cassidy Track — Photo: Kerry Rooney



Council planning staff will be visiting Michelago on 3 December in the Hall, 10.30—12.30 to consult with the community on the planning documents, so you can discuss the proposals, ask as many questions as you need and leave feedback.

Council needs to know your views on these to be able to find the balance between the diverse needs, wants and concerns of the community. Council's Your Say page can be found at [Have Your Say | Snowy Monaro Regional Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/your-say)

Financial sustainability

Council commissioned a thorough investigation into its financial situation. The NSW government requires Council to be financial sustainable, despite shifting many previous state government responsibilities and assets to local government without commensurate funding. The consultants confirmed we have a structural deficit of about \$5m per year. A deficit occurs where we should be spending money (on our assets, eg roads) but we don't because we just don't have the funds available. So every year, our assets get in worse condition, to the tune of \$5m. Council continues to debate a suite of recommended actions designed to improve financial sustainability, including reducing service* levels and increasing rates. I am happy to hear from you regarding this issue.

* These can only be services which local government is not statutorily responsible for.

Michelago Update

- Tenders for the Ryrie St Extension (bridge) have come in! Council is working productively with UGL to ensure that the work can now proceed by acquiring part of the railway reserve.
- I submitted a Question on Notice at the last Council meeting regarding speed mitigation in front of the Michelago Public School seeking assistance in identifying the appropriate type of traffic calming measures for the site. By lodging a QON, it has been put on the public record.
- Michelago Road – Thank you to everyone who has been in touch. Council is aware of community concern and has commenced appropriate action. The current DA listed is for the quarry owner to undertake road repairs, ensuring that any work is up to council standard.
- Thanks to everyone who has kept me up to date regarding the condition of local roads. I have been passing these on to the reactive road repair team. I also love hearing about when the work has been done.

Contact me on 0420 970 544 or tanya.higgins@snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au .

Remembrance Day – 11.11.2022

Photos: LP



The traditional order of service at this solemn occasion was observed by a small gathering. First, there was the relatively new but now customary Acknowledgement of Country, then

the laying of wreaths, with some of us remembering family and friends who have died in various wars.

Rob read The Ode and lowered the flag to half-mast. Then there was the Last Post, 11am minute's silence, then the Rouse. Gregg raised the flag. People sang the National Anthem.

There was a companionable gathering at the Shop afterwards.



Rob Smith and Gregg McFaul have affixed solid images to the cenotaph for each of the armed forces.

The new plaque, generously funded by the community, listing people from the region who served in war is eagerly anticipated.





Michelago Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade – changing of the guard

Photos: LP

The Michelago Brigade Captain, Brent Wallis, has gained the position of Group Officer, one of the four representing the NSW RFS Cooma Division (i.e. the northern area supporting the northern brigades). He has therefore stepped down as Captain, a position he has held for 15 years. For the past seven years, he has been a Deputy Group Officer as well as our Brigade Captain, a large responsibility. At a General Meeting of the Brigade on 20 November, Scott Teys, experienced Senior Deputy Captain, was popularly elected by the active members as the new Captain. Congratulations, Scott!

Keith Howker made a welcome return to the position of Senior Deputy and Duncan McNeil made an equally welcome return to the officer ranks as one of the Deputy Captains. Other Deputy Captains are still Derek Giucci, Abby Macpherson and David Ferris. A good team.

Brent's sterling qualities as a cohesive team member and strategic leader of integrity will serve him well in his new position.



Left: Brent opens his farewell present from the Brigade.



Above: Captain Scott, Snr Dep. Keith, Treasurer Brien, Dep. David, Dep. Abby, Dep. Duncan, Call-out Officer Brony, President Peter, Dep. Derek, Secretary Lee, retiring Captain Brent.

Railway Station working bee

Kerry Rooney Photos: LP



23 October. Whipper-snippers, weeders and mowers got lucky with some non-rainy weather and restored a smile to the historic Michelago railway station. There was more mowing to do, but the toughest parts were done. Some more mowing before Remembrance Day made it a welcoming place for the ceremony.



Thank you to the volunteers who gave up a couple of hours for some vigorous and productive exercise. *Above, L to R: Cheryl's sister from Darwin; Cheryl's hubby, Wally; Emily & mother Cheryl.*



History: the irises shown above originated from the garden of former Michelago identity, Alma Coffey, Leanne Thurling's grandmother. Leanne took them to Queanbeyan, thence to her present Tinderry home and then some of them to the Railway Station.



Tourists have commented favourably on Michelago's 'beautifully kept' heritage railway station. With the occasional working bee, it can be kept beautiful.

L: Kerry with the battery mower bought by the MRCA last year.

R: The roses Catherine Kelly planted to punctuate the box hedge are thriving.



Christmas Carols with the Michelago Community Choir, 22 December, Station



Michelago's fledgling Community Choir is nearly ready to try its wings by leading the merry Michelagoans in Christmas carols.

Bring your picnic and rug to the Historic Railway Station 6–8pm for a simple, open and enjoyable singalong.

What a lovely start to Christmas!



The Senior Lunch Group

This elegantly named, open-gender, fluidly populated group meets on the first Monday of the month at the Shop at 1.00. It eats and drinks, and talks about anything. None of the attendees consider themselves to be 'old'.

There's no formal membership. Just come along if you like and be welcome.

Buy your own coffee, chips, toasted sandwiches ... Next meeting 5 December.

L to R: Kerry, Leanne, Jo, John, Leanne, Jan, Janet.

Photo: Kelly Klingberg





THE CHOIR

Leanne Thurling

THE CHOIR HAD ASSEMBLED AT THE WEEKLY RENDEVOUS
THE CHOIRMASTER'S NERVES WERE SHOT, UNSURE OF WHAT TO DO,
FOR ALL THE SENIOR CITS HAD COME, IT REALLY WAS NO JOKE,
WITH ZIMMER FRAMES AND HEARING AIDS; HE DIDN'T THINK HE'D COPE.

HE SET THEM ALL SOME VOCAL TASKS, AND EXERCISES TOO,
THEN THEY SCREECHED AND SQUARKED AS ONE, LIKE FRIGHTENED COCKATOOS,
AND BERYL STANDING PROUDLY WITH HER HEARING AIDS TURNED OFF
AND ARTHUR, HE'S THE BARITONE, SOUNDS LIKE A STEPPED-ON FROG.
THE PARISH DOG HAS GONE TO GROUND AND, FEARFUL IN HIS PLIGHT,
HE THOUGHT THAT HE'D DISTURBED SOME CATS TANGLED IN A FIGHT.

THE CHOIRMASTER SOLDIERED ON, DETERMINED IN HIS TASK
THAT HE'D PRODUCE A CHORAL GROUP FOR CAROLS IN THE PARK.

THERE'S MAVIS SINGING OUT OF TUNE, A BEAT OR TWO BEHIND
AND FRED IS TRYING HARD TO READ, ALTHOUGH HE'S ALMOST BLIND.

THEN AT ONCE IT ALL BEGINS TO FORM A SOOTHING SOUND –
THE CHOIRMASTER SIGHS RELIEF, THE HARMONIES ARE FOUND
AND, LIKE A BAND OF ANGELS THAT ARE SENT FROM HIGH ABOVE,
THIS GROUP OF ELDERS STARTS TO SING THE SONGS THEY KNOW AND LOVE.



Tennis clubhouse's new ceiling

Paul Kennedy, Canberra and local builder, has installed the new ceiling and re-installed the lights (at right). Now Ardeshir has painted it, too. Thank you, Paul and Ardeshir!

Now the birds won't have the open rafters to roost on 😊
The Hall Committee and MRCA will need to organise a working bee for some sweeping and washing so people can use bird-poo free seats and walk on a crunch-free floor.

A recipient of the

Boco Rock Community Enhancement Fund

in partnership with





A walk in the Tinderries

Jo Gaha – report & photos

Markus Buchhorn and Julie Field hosted a Landcare walk on their property on the Tinderries on a beautiful, non-rainy day! Eighteen of us from various locations, including Michelago, Royalla, Canberra, Calabash, Smith's Road and Bredbo, after being warned about slippery rocks, snakes and other potential hazards, set off as intrepid walkers to explore the beauty of the ranges.

We walked to a number of locations in their rugged, beautiful area.



The after-effects of the 2009 fires were visible in the regrowth of the plants and the thinning of the trees. Beautiful, delicate Spring wildflowers were beginning to appear, and it was satisfying to walk in bush that was free of the weeds many of us at lower altitudes contend with.

Markus and Julie plan to conserve their property as bush, develop various walking trails and provide eco-tourism accommodation to visitors. We walked along a number of the planned trails to various natural lookouts.





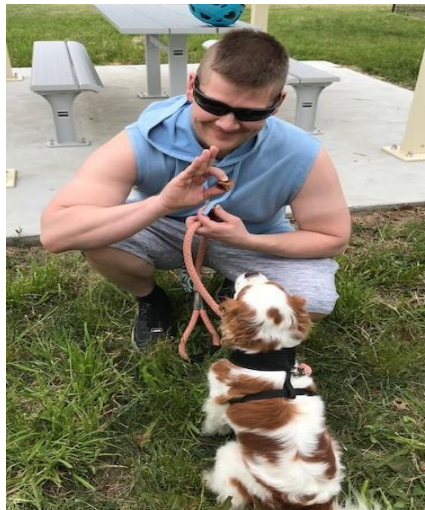
Landcare-MRCA community bbq, 5 November

This was another community event funded by the BCRRF through the large grant that brought the barbecues and shelters to the Michelago Oval.

The Michelago Rural Fire Brigade had intended to partner the MRCA with the Bushfire Get Ready Day, but lack of fires due to Covid and deployment of personnel to help sandbagging against the floods meant a last-minute cancellation.

Therefore, the MRCA brought forward a different planned event, one with the community organisation Michelago Landcare. Because of the short notice, only a few Landcare members were able to come, but it was a pleasant occasion in lovely weather.

Canines and humans consumed the free food with great pleasure. BBQ organisers Jo and Brendan really do source and cook excellent sausages! Tony DeSalis was an excellent co-cook and barbecue-plate cleaner.



Above: Hector, Percy and Brandt; Adrian and Ragnar; Tony in cleaning mode.



L: The Bunston family and friends.

Above: Tony and Brendan, the chef team.



L: Jo served second and even three sausages to the growing boys.

R: 'That's the best sausage you'll ever have!'





2MNO Community Radio

Enjoy music? Feeling nostalgic?

Listen to 2MNO, the only community radio in the Snowy Monaro.

Join me every Saturday from 11 to 2 on 2MNO Monaro community radio for a genuinely eclectic mix of music. There'll always be jazz and blues, often music from the 1930s and 1940s. Sometimes there's a dash of folk and country. There'll always be popular music from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

The program is called The Week That Was because the playlist is determined by which musical artists had birthdays or anniversaries during the last week.

Livestream from www.2mno.org.au or from the Community Radio Plus app which you can download on your phone or tablet. You may be able to tune into 93.3FM Nimmitabel, which is 2MNO's main transmitter broadcasting across the Monaro region. Reception is patchy around Michelago so livestreaming is usually the best option.



I'm trying to increase Australian content in the program and welcome suggestions about Aussie singers or bands, old or new. Contact me in the Cooma studio on 6452 5210 between 11 and 2 on Saturdays – while I'm playing music so I can answer the phone. Or if you prefer, email your suggestions to kerryaroonney@gmail.com



If you're interested in becoming a presenter, 2MNO has vacancies so chat to me for more information in the first instance.

If you're a business, you may be interested in sponsorship. Packages start at \$120 per month for 14 promotional messages aired per week. Contact Phil Daley on 0438 727 232 for more information.

2MNO is run solely by volunteers and would like to thank its sponsors and supporters.



Yoga for every body



Yoga is for all body types – you don't have to be flexible, co-ordinated, fit, etc to do yoga! You just have to show up and move in the ways that benefit your body.

It's Friday 9.15am at the Michelago Hall

Children welcome but there's no proper crèche at the moment so they're in the hall with us.

Class cost: \$20.

You can book your spot here:

<https://michelagoyoga.as.me/> or for more information contact Belinda on 0411 043 027 or hello@michelagoyoga.com.au

yoga for people who think
they can't do yoga

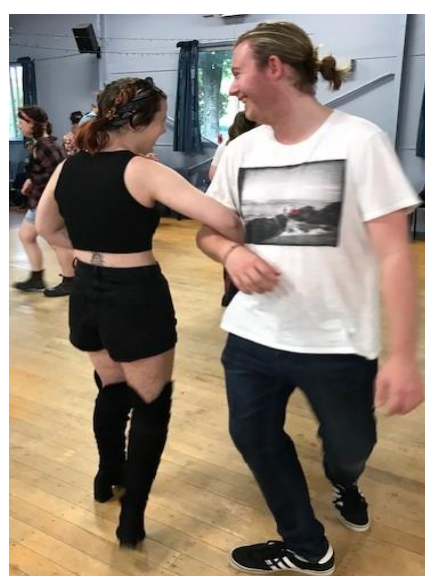


More Bush Dance highlights

Photos: LP



Thank you to Fiona and Belinda for organising this excellent occasion.



Thank you to Jo and Brendan for organising, cooking and serving the bbq food and to Brien for bringing the Fire Brigade bbq to the Hall. Thank you to all other helpers, too!

The Bush Dance was partly funded by the BCRRF (Bushfire Community Recovery & Resilience Fund) with the large grant that also paid for the new barbecues and shelters at the Michelago Oval.



Many people said 'Let's do this again next year!'



Snowy Monaro lodges Pothole Repair grant application

Media Release, Friday 28 October 2022 – Clancy Noakes, Communications Officer

Snowy Monaro Regional Council yesterday submitted an application for funding under the NSW Government's Fixing Local Roads Pothole Repair Round.

The State Government announced this new round of roads funding on Tuesday 25 October 2022, open for two weeks for applications.

Council's submission seeks access to a share of the \$50M funding round, which will be disbursed to rural and regional Councils based on the size of the road network in their local government area, not the number of potholes.

With one of the largest networks of roads of any Council in NSW, almost 3000km across 15,000km², it is anticipated that Snowy Monaro Regional Council will receive a substantial grant from the State Government to fix a significant proportion of the damage on our roadways.

Mayor Narelle Davis said, 'We welcome this funding as it supplement the Disaster Relief Funding Arrangements (DRFA funding) while our works teams and contractors are continuing to work on our extensive road network.'

Successful applications and funding amounts will be announced in November 2022.

For more information on roads and road maintenance in the Snowy Monaro, please visit

www.snowymonaro.nsw.gov.au/Roads-Traffic-Maintenance



L: These are definitely not Michelago potholes. In case you haven't seen any around here, this shows what some potholes can look like.

Creative Commons image.



St Patrick's Christmas gathering – BBQ and Carols

Michael Scanlon

St Patrick's, 6418 Monaro Highway, 10 December, 2–8pm.

Come help us celebrate the birth of the first gift of Christmas – Jesus. Come and enjoy a community gathering, food, games and carols. It'll be a great time to catch up with friends or make new friends.

In keeping with the theme of the first gift of Christmas, we will be accepting food and toy donations for local charities.

At 3pm there will be several bbqs where you can cook your own food (byo food and drinks). They will remain in operation till 5pm.

The wide selection of carols will be via Spotify and, of course, our own voices. If anyone wishes, you may also lead the community in a carol or bring a musical instrument to add to the vibe.

For more information, contact Michael on 0409 369 997.



Image supplied.



First cricket match of the season

Photos: LP



22 October: Michelago's cricket team opened their season on a perfect Spring day at the Oval.



Need anything painted?

Contact local painter Ardeshir of *Painter Without Borders*: 0427 339 761.

Prompt and quality service, honest advice and fair prices.

R: Ardeshir painting over graffiti at the Railway Station last March, using the required Heritage colour.

[Photo from Magpie 3. LP]



Gingerbread houses – fun & fundraiser – Sunday 18 December, 2.30–4.30pm, the Hall

Belinda Sierzchula



Image supplied.

This is a super fun & delicious fundraiser to raise money for repairs needed at the Michelago Hall. \$45 per Gingerbread House, so get one for the family to decorate together OR one each if you don't want to share!

We've got 3 options. For the first 2, you buy the gingerbread house kit online by 4 December. The kits will be delivered to Belinda, who will bring them to the Hall.

The link is << <https://michelagoyoga.as.me/Gingerbread>

Option 1. Have a fun afternoon decorating your gingerbread houses with others in our community on Sunday 18 December, 2.30–4.30pm.

Option 2. You can purchase a Gingerbread House to collect from Belinda when they're delivered to her and then take it home to construct and decorate it by yourself, then gift it to someone, eat it, etc.

Option 3. If you love to bake and would rather bake your own gingerbread house and bring it along to construct & decorate on Sunday 18 December, 2.30–4.30 with people who've bought the kit, please feel free to do so!

Where are the kits from? Gingerbread houses kits are being purchased from 'Gingerbread Folk'. All kits are Vegan with a gluten-free option available. Gluten-free & vegan lollies can be purchased as an optional extra in the link, or you can supply your own lollies (that's if you want lollies; you might want just icing on your house).

What's included in the kits? The gingerbread house kits come with the gingerbread shapes, royal icing mix (egg-free), piping bag and a silver board for constructing it onto.

Do you want more info from the supplier? Go to the website << www.gingerbreadfolk.com.au >> If you see anything else you'd like from them, just tell me so I can add it to our order.

If you take **Option 3**, we'd love a gold coin donation to the Hall.

Most important: we'd just love to see our community enjoying an afternoon together.

Want more information? Please contact Belinda on 0411 043 027.



Images: Gingerbread Folk website





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~ Michelago Magpie Calendar ~

Please send quick updates of what's coming up, what's on and any corrections to newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au If the Magpie knows about it, it will be here.



If your friends want to be on the mailing list for the *Magpie* and *Magpie Calendar*, send names and emails to the above address.

Regular (Venues and times can change; information is here as we receive it.)

- **Choir** Thursdays 7—8pm. St Thomas's Church, Ryrie St (next to the police station). Finished for 2022. To resume first week of the school term in 2023.
- **Fire Brigade** training is finished for the year. Contact details on MRCA notice board at Michelago General Store.
- **Hall** Committee general meeting. Hall. Monthly 3rd Wed 5.45pm.
- **Hall bookings:** michelago.hall@michelagoregion.org.au or phone 0431 528 258 Rachel Harling
- **HIIT** exercise class. Hall. Sat 9am? \$10. [This Saturday 3 Dec. 8am. No other news yet available for over Christmas-NY break.]
- **Library.** Mobile library – see below,
- **MRCA** general meeting (open). Railway station. Monthly 2nd Wed 6pm.
- **Pony Club.** Monthly 2nd Sunday. <https://www.pcansw.org.au/clubs/list/michelago>
- **Pre-School.** Hall. Teacher: Debbie 0412 485 212. Weekly. Mondays 6am—6pm.
- **Seed Savers.** See below for December. Monthly, usually last Sun but can vary. 2pm. Gold coin. Usually railway station but to confirm the locations or if you have other questions, please call or email Belinda: 0411 043 027 or hello@michelagoyoga.com.au
- **Senior Lunch Group.** 1st Monday of the month, 1pm, the Shop.
- **St Patrick's** Catholic Church. Mass monthly usu. 2nd Sat, 6.00pm. Updates on Facebook's Michelago Noticeboard. **Christmas Mass:** check Facebook for time.
- **St Thomas's** Anglican Church. Holy Communion. Monthly, 3rd Sunday 11am. Christmas Eve: a Christingle service – see below.
- **Trail Riders:** usu. monthly, 1st Sat. Check details on Tinderry tab of Australian Trail Horse Riders Association (ATHRA). *Magpie 4* has a feature write-up. President Don Munns 0407 235 407. Membership – Secretary Heidi Dreyer 0434 197 122.
- **Yoga:** breathe, move, relax. Hall. Fri 9.15am. \$20. BYO mat but some mats available. Booking: <https://michelagoyoga.as.me/> or just show up and pay cash. Enquiries: Belinda 0411 043 027 or hello@michelagoyoga.com.au



One-offs (that we know about) (Venues and times can change; information is here as we receive it.)

December

- Michelago School **Fun Run** then bbq. Oval. 2 Dec, about 11am.
- **HIIT** exercise class, Sat 3 Dec, 8am (and see above).
- **Seed Savers**, 4 Dec, 3–4.30-ish, Railway Station.
- **Mobile library**, 10–11am. 5 & 19 Dec, outside the school.
- **Council staff** Sat 3 Dec. 10.30—12.30, the Hall, to discuss (a) DRAFT Settlements Strategy, (b) DRAFT Rural Land Use Strategy, (c) DRAFT Land and Environment Plan (LEP)
- **Christmas Carols** at St Patrick's 10 Dec, 2–8pm. Bring your food & drink. Cook on the provided bbqs from 3pm.
- **Gingerbread House** fundraiser for Michelago Memorial Hall, at the Hall, Sun 18 Dec, 2.30–4.30pm. Cost \$45 for the Gingerbread house kit. Details: see p.15.
- **Christmas Carols** at the Railway Station, 22 Dec, 6–8 pm. Bring your picnic and rug and join in with the Community Choir.
- **Christmas Church services:** St Patrick's Mass (see above). St Thomas's: Christmas Eve 5pm. A family-friendly 'Christingle' service.



Hall hire rates

Michelago Community Hall

		2022	
Hire - per hour	\$17.00	\$12.00	per hour
Refundable Deposit Bond - Standard Hire	\$167.50	\$160.00	per event
Private evening/Party function	\$0.00	\$215.00	per event
Refundable deposit bond - private evening/Party function	\$0.00	\$250.00	per event
Hire of equipment - chairs, tables, kitchen etc.	To be arranged on a case-by-case basis with the committee.		



Magpie information

Advertisements: businesses can purchase a half- to one-page advertisement space (size depending on other content) for \$30.00 for three issues. Non-business ads are free.

Contributions: You can send letters, photos and news items to newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au Please give your name and put *Magpie* in the subject line. Items will be attributed. The MRCA committee reserves the right to edit contributions. Copyright belongs to the author or photographer.

newsletter@michelagoregion.org.au Leanne Pattison, Editor



MRCA information

MRCA contact: mrca@michelagoregion.org.au

The Council, many years ago, pleaded for a representative community voice, so some energetic people formed the MRCA to try to be that voice and to organise good things for the community. The more people who are on the membership list, the stronger the voice.

It's a legally constituted Association with consequent safeguards for the members.

Committee members have come and gone but all have had community interests at heart.

Minutes and financial statements are available. Members elect the committee at the AGM in February. Any Michelagoan is welcome to join and contribute. It's inclusive. Work is done by volunteers. The annual membership fee helps costs – in a small way! Successful applications for government grants have helped MRCA achievements a great deal.

To belong, first download the membership form at www.michelagoregion.org.au

It's only \$10 p/a single and \$15 p/a family. Please include your name.

There are four good reasons for joining the Michelago Region Community Association:

- (1) You make it more representative. (2) You get updates from Council. (3) All funds go to running costs, including upkeep, rental and electricity for Michelago's Heritage Railway Station. The Committee is working on fund-raiser options and really appreciates all the volunteer assistance. (4) It's sociable – you know what's happening, who's doing what, and you participate only if you want to.

Meetings are open: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6 pm, Railway Station. All Michelagoans are welcome.

MRCA Committee 2022—23: President Di Fett; Vice President Brent Wallis; Secretary Jo Jackson; Treasurer Stuart Peterson; Railway Station subcommittee Kerry Rooney & Belinda Sierzchula; Gary Morris; Tony DeSalis; *Magpie* editor Leanne Pattison.

We thank retiring member Cristina Huesch for her always constructive contributions and wish her well in her new location.

